

PROCLAMATION

BY THE

Governor of the State of Texas

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS SHALL COME:

Pursuant to Article IV, Section 14, of the Texas Constitution, I, Rick Perry, Governor of Texas, do hereby disapprove of and veto Senate Bill No. 1433 as passed by the Seventy-Ninth Texas Legislature, Regular Session, because of the following objections:

Senate Bill No. 1433 would mandate Emergency Service Districts serving populations of 30,000 or more to provide the same civil service system to their firefighters that cities provide municipal firefighters. Civil service system benefits – including longevity and classification pay – would increase the cost to these districts, and voters would have no ability to vote on the civil service system provided by this bill. Because emergency service districts are more limited in their ability to raise revenue than cities, the districts would face difficulty meeting the increased costs associated with a civil service system.

Furthermore, the bill would require districts that drop below the 30,000 population threshold to continue the civil service system, even though they would have a lower tax base to fund the system. The appeal and grievance procedures required by the bill may result in legal and administrative costs beyond the district's capability to manage, thus negatively impacting their operation, and that is a concern expressed by emergency service districts about this bill.

It is my intent to work with Emergency Service Districts so that in the 80th legislative session we can provide employment protections for our firefighters while also resolving how to address entities whose populations may drop below the 30,000 threshold.

Since the Legislature by its adjournment has prevented the return of this bill, I am filing these objections in the office of the Secretary of State and giving notice thereof by this public proclamation according to the aforementioned constitutional provision.



IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have signed my name officially and caused the Seal of the State to be affixed hereto at Austin, this 17th day of June, 2005.

Rick Perry

RICK PERRY
Governor of Texas

ATTESTED BY:

Roger Williams

ROGER WILLIAMS
Secretary of State

FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE
SECRETARY OF STATE
2:20pm O'CLOCK

JUN 17 2005